

NSC BRIEFING

30 NOVEMBER 1955

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THAILAND

- 25X1 I. [] a change of some significance is taking place in Thailand's "ideological climate."

25X1 B. Impact of Continuing Geneva discussions between US Ambassador Johnson and ChiCom negotiator Wang Ping-nan has been "considerable" in Thailand.

1. Thais take it as matter of course that US would not be "wasting its time" at Geneva if not seeking "new arrangement."

25X1 II. []

25X6A A. Prime Minister Phibun, who makes Thai foreign policy, obviously remembers Western efforts to get him to take suicidal [] position in 1941, while offering no troops to back him up.

B. Also recalls his quick recognition by US when he seized power after war and is apparently convinced of the efficacy of the fait accompli in dealing with Washington.

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- C. Among lures, [redacted] appeal of cheap goods and increased trade with ChiComs, desire to avoid entanglement with affairs of Great Powers and general popularity of moves that show Thailand to be "as independent as any-one else."
- D. Another factor motivating Phibun is that, nearing end of career, he is probably disquieted by comparisons between himself (as wily politician) and neighbors U Nu and Nehru (as world statesmen).
- E. Phibun visiting Rangoon on 14 Dec: while he will miss Bulganin-Khrushchev party, effects of that visit may set the tone for his talks with U Un.

III. Meanwhile, in Bangkok, tension is high with General Phao--once-powerful police chief and good friend of US--being pushed further aside.

- A. Papers under control of Prime Minister have printed articles bitterly critical of Phao.

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- B. Phao, in turn, nervous and upset: [redacted]

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2. As to resignation, Phao could be almost as dangerous to Phibun out of the Gov't as in [redacted]

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C. all evidence indicates Phao doing best to ingratiate self with Prime Minister, reestablish old relationship. //

D. Nonetheless, Political tension running high.

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